



State Senator Jud Gilbert

SERVING THE 25TH DISTRICT – LAPEER & ST. CLAIR COUNTIES

*Breaking news from Senator Gilbert's Office
A Legislative Bulletin for Residents of the 25th District*

GILBERT GAZETTE

May 12, 2006

Senate sends Gilbert legislation restricting funeral demonstrations to Governor

A permit to demonstrate outside a funeral home, cemetery, mosque or synagogue where a funeral or memorial service is taking place would be allowed to be required under legislation heading to the governor's desk. The legislation, Senate Bill 1199, is sponsored by Sen. Jud Gilbert. The goal of this legislation is to protect the dignity and privacy of soldiers and their families while maintaining freedom of speech. The measure would allow local units of government to require protestors to apply for and be issued a permit in order to demonstrate outside a funeral. A permit would not have to be issued if the service is on private property and one may be issued if the service is on public property. Additionally, the local government may charge a fee for the application and issuance of a permit.

Congressional apportionments

The Senate approved a resolution urging Congress to adopt a constitutional amendment that would ensure congressional seat apportionment is based on the census count of legal citizens only. Senate Resolution 105 is in response to the impact that illegal immigrants are having on distribution of congressional seats. Seats are apportioned based on each state's population, including both legal and non-legal residents. While Michigan and other states have populations of more than 95 percent legal U.S. citizens, that's not the case for all states. Some of the statistics are startling. Consider the 31st Congressional District in California where only 60 percent of the "persons" counted were listed as legal citizens. Incredibly, the remaining 40 percent can impact congressional representation even though they cannot legally vote. Continued loss of congressional representation for states like Michigan will have significant long-term policy impact. As an example, issues such as water diversion from the Great Lakes could be tilted toward Southwestern states like Arizona if the current apportionment system continues.

District office hours

District Office Hours on Friday May 26, 2006

8:30AM-9:30AM

Kimball Township Hall
1970 Allen Rd
Kimball, MI 48074-2606
(810) 987-9797

10:30AM-11:30AM

Imlay Township Hall
682 N Fairgrounds Rd
Imlay City, MI 48444-9404
(810) 724-8835

12Noon-1:00PM

Arcadia Township Hall
4900 Spencer St
Attica, MI 48412-9322
(810) 724-6565

Renewable fuels

Legislation in the Senate is designed to help spur growth in Michigan's agriculture industry and promote and encourage use of E85, a fuel blend that is 85 percent ethanol, and biodiesel, a diesel fuel containing at least 5 percent biodiesel. Ethanol is a clean burning high-octane fuel primarily produced today from corn kernels. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning diesel fuel made from natural renewable sources such as soybean oil. Although GM and Ford are heavily investing in the production of E85 vehicles, there are only four pumps dispensing the fuel in Michigan, while Minnesota has 198 pumps and Illinois has 104 pumps statewide. Senate Bill 1074 would provide motor fuel tax exemptions on the purchase of renewable fuels. The tax breaks would be 7 cents off the 19-cent motor fuel tax on E85 or 3 cents off the 15-cent motor fuel tax on diesel fuel containing at least 5 percent biodiesel.

Other legislation in the renewable fuel package would:

- Set strict quality-control standards for biodiesel and hydrogen fuels, and require diesel-fuel testing in Michigan.
- Require the state to install a fueling infrastructure at the Lansing state fleet garage and require all state flex fuel vehicles to fill up with E85 and diesel vehicles to use a biodiesel blend.
- Amend the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act by creating 10 alternative energy targeted renaissance zones.

Senate acts to keep dangerous criminals off the street

The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation that would make it explicit that Michigan Department of Corrections officials do not have to automatically release an offender accused of parole violations if an administrative hearing is not held within 45 days of the offender being incarcerated for the violation. Supporters said the change is needed after the case of Patrick Selepak, whom police and prosecutors say killed two Macomb County residents and a Genesee County man in February. Selepak should have been put back in prison after parole violations but was mistakenly paroled again because an administrative fact-finding hearing didn't take place within the specified time. According to testimony during a recent Senate hearing, corrections officials released 41 convicted felons in the past year because of the mistaken belief that the convicts had to be released if they hadn't had a hearing within 45 days of going back behind bars.

*** Thank you for showing an interest in Senator Gilbert's periodic E-mail News Updates. Should you know of any friends or family members who would like to be added to the mailing list, please do not hesitate to contact Senator Gilbert's office with that request. The office can be reached at senjgilbert@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 877-GILBERT. ***